

The Friends of Hibou would like to thank our community groups that made the Hibou Interpretive Hike Project a reality.

Community Foundation Grey Bruce
Bob & Marie Knapp Endowment Fund
Owen Sound Field Naturalists
Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation
Owen Sound Kiwanis Club



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One can make a difference!



Grey Sauble Conservation
FOUNDATION

To learn more about "Hibou and The Story of How This Park Came to Be", you can purchase Robert Knapp's book. An excerpt from his book, "One fateful day in April 1972, I had been out with Mac Kirk on a hike and we were returning from Leith along the East Bayshore road. As we were rounding a bend, Mac stated in a way only he could say. "We're travelling through a property that is going to be lost forever. It contains the longest stretch of undeveloped shoreline from Collingwood to Warton except for the Tank Range. If we don't act now we will lose this last chance." In February 1972 Mac had been able to convince the 18 member board to back the purchase if he could secure the funds. The vote was unanimous except for one exception and that member believed that the purchase price was excessive."

You can support projects on Conservation Authority lands by purchasing a Season Pass at the Grey Sauble Conservation Administration Centre located at 237897 Inglis Falls Road, Owen Sound. There are over seventy properties to explore in our area.

Visit the website to download a copy of the map.

[http://www1.greysauble.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/](http://www1.greysauble.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Map-of-Properties-and-Permitted-Activities.pdf)

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Grey Sauble Conservation Administration Office

519 376-3076



Hibou

Interpretive Hike

Guide



Please return this pamphlet to box on entrance sign



Hibou consists of about 20-30 hectares of wetland and is an area of great diversity. The interpretive trail is a loop of 1.7 kilometres with 15 information stations. (It is estimated that it may take up to 1 1/2 hours to complete.) Please stay on the trail and keep your dog on a leash. Using this pamphlet and looking at the numbers as you travel around the trail you will learn more about this great area. Please return the pamphlet to the box on the sign, when you complete your hike. If you want to keep the pamphlet for future use that is okay. Friends of Hibou are thankful for all the support they received in constructing this interpretive trail.



1. White Ash This is the largest ash tree on the Hibou property. It is most likely over 150 years old. Unfortunately it may die in the near future because of the Emerald Ash Borer.(EAB) This small insect was brought to Canada many years ago and kills the tree by boring under the bark. If only the stump is here you will know that sadly the EAB has killed this mature tree.



2. Ferns At this location you can see two types of ferns, the sensitive and ostrich fern. Sensitive fern is widely spread throughout Hibou. It got its name from being killed by the first frost, hence the name sensitive. Ostrich is one of our tallest ferns and in the spring has beautiful fiddleheads. Other species of ferns that have been identified at Hibou are: bracken, northern holly fern, wood fern, lady fern and oak fern.



3. Old Beach Ridge The rounded water-worn cobbles across the path mark an old beach terrace of glacial Lake Nipissing. It existed about 5000 years ago. Lake Nipissing was a large lake that included today's Lakes Huron, Michigan, Superior and the lands around them. During the Nipissing stage, the lake level was about 14 metres higher than it is today. Water levels have always been changing throughout time. This was the traditional territory and home of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. We do know that they lived in this area for many centuries and experienced many changes of water level.



4. Yellow Lady Slipper This is an orchid and has a flower in the shape of a slipper. The slipper lures small flying insects with scent and colour. The insect goes into the flower and ends up pollinating it. Pollination enables reproduction in the plant. The plant appears to like moist conditions that dry up in the summer. Deer like to eat the green foliage. This might be one reason we don't see many plants at Hibou. It blooms in June, but if picked or transplanted it will no longer be here so please leave it for others to enjoy.

5. Rotten Log and Fallen Tree Hibou has thin soils and tree roots do not grow deep. Dead trees decay over time and help to replenish the soil. A mini ecosystem can be found on fallen trees. In these places you might see ferns, mosses and lichens growing. Small animals such as salamanders and all types of insects might make the dead log home. This is an important part of the decay process.



6. Whitetail Deer Many whitetail deer live in this area and you can often see their hoof prints in mud near the trail. The photo shows the basic shape of the hoof with the 2 sections. Deer tend to rub their antlers on young trees often leaving a scar. If you find such a tree you can suspect a deer was responsible. Deer like a combination of open area and forest. Swamps provide a sheltered area to live in the winter. They are vegetarian and feed on leaf material and plants. In the winter they eat twigs and buds or whatever they can find under the snow. Fawns are born in late May or early June and can walk almost immediately. Deer raise their tail when alarmed. This exposes the bright white of their tail and explains how they got their name.



7. Four Main Trees Growing in Hibou

Eastern White Cedar This was used by the First Nations to prevent scurvy. It is also called the tree of life or "arbor vitae". It can grow in wet or dry conditions and is very common in this area. It can grow in adverse conditions as long it gets lots of sun. Ancient cedar trees over 1000 years old can be found growing out of the rock face along the escarpment. Cedar trees provide cover for deer who use the branch tips for winter food. It is a favourite food of birds such as pine siskins and redpolls.



Balsam Poplar This is used by the beavers in Hibou for food and in the construction of their dams and lodges. The balsam reproduces mainly by sending up sprouts from roots and stumps. Bud resin can be used as an antiseptic ointment and in cough syrups.



White Birch (paper birch) This tree tends to grow in clearings and usually grows in a group. It only lives for 60 to 70 years and then makes way for maples, beech, etc. This tree was very useful to the First Nations as they used it for making birch bark canoes, shelters and multitude of other uses. Pulling the white "birch bark" off a birch tree will damage it.

Ash Tree This tree is able to grow in both damp and dry locations. As it is a very strong wood it has been used for hockey sticks and tool handles. In the early days it was used to make airplane and automobile frames. Some First Nations used the bark to produce a yellow dye. It is sad to see it being destroyed by the Emerald AshBorer.

8. Invasive Plants and Trees Throughout the Hibou Area you will see plants or trees that were not native to Canada. One tree is the Buckthorn which was brought over from Europe by the early settlers. Unfortunately it can spread very quickly in clearings and can prevent native trees from growing. The berries can be eaten by birds, but have a laxative effect with humans. The leaves tend to stay green into the late fall. Can you think of any other invasive trees or plants in Hibou?

9. Grapevine Throughout Hibou you will see wild grapevines growing up the trees. They grow thicker and higher than most other vines. The fruit is edible but is very sour. In Hibou the vines tend to like to grow in the moist forest. The fruit of the wild grape could have been used by the indigenous people living in the area. Sometimes the weight of the vine along with snow will cause the tree to fall over.

10. Biodiversity and Swamps - See Sign

11. Poison Ivy - Don't Touch!

This is a native plant and has always grown in this area. It is sun loving and can grow in both moist and dry soil. It loves growing along the side of the trail where it gets sun so be wary. In some locations it can become a healthy vine and climb up a tree. Leaves of Three, let it be.

The oil on poison ivy is called urushiol. Although most people are allergic to it, birds, deer and other animals do not react to the oil. If you come in contact with the plant it is possible to wash off the oil with soap and water before it gets absorbed into the skin. If it is on your clothes, simply wash them in detergent as the oil can remain on your garments for many months. Please keep your dog on a leash while at Hibou. Dogs off leash can touch the plant, picking up the oil onto their fur and spread it to you.

12. Horsetail (Scouring Rush) This plant with its straight leaves arranged in circles around the stem is horsetail. It is a primitive plant that has been on earth for hundreds of millions of years or back in the time of the dinosaurs. The stems contain silicon which gives the plant a gritty feel, which explains why they were also called Scouring Rush.

13. Phragmites (Common Reed)

This plant was brought from Asia many years ago. It thrives in wetlands and gives off a toxin that prevents other plants from growing. It can take over where bull rushes have been growing for centuries. It is a serious threat to areas of shore around the Great Lakes. Dense stands can prevent animals from entering or using the area for habitat. If land is disturbed Phragmites moves in and can lead to a lowering of diversity. The feathery tip on the high reed contains the seed which are easily spread. It is important that you don't walk in it as this could spread seeds. Every year it seems to be spreading further into the park and hopefully in the future there will be a way to stop its spread at Hibou.



14. Beaver Pond

Here is an active Beaver Pond. All around you will see cut trees both large and small. You will see mud trails along the ground which are the beaver's roads for hauling branches. If the Beavers eat all the softwood trees (Aspen) in this area they will be forced to abandon this pond for a new area.

The dam here is about 200 metres long and has gradually been made higher so that there is more land flooded. As they use the trees near the edge of the pond they continue to raise the dam so that they don't have to go far from the pond to get more food. Beaver are safer in the water and prefer to stay there rather than travel on land. A large Beaver Lodge can be seen in the pond. Beaver ponds help to control flooding while the ponds provide habitat for hundreds of creatures. Beaver have the amazing ability to change their environment just as you see is happening here. Young kits, usually about four are born from April to June. In one day they can swim and after two years kits are evicted and start families of their own.

Interesting Facts about Beavers

Beavers have continuously growing front teeth that must be worn down by gnawing. They chew constantly. Beavers are excellent swimmers and dedicated parents. Favourite Food: Soft broadleaf trees like birch, aspen, poplar and maple. Their claim to Fame: Other than being a Canadian Icon, beavers are well known for their potential to significantly and quickly alter aquatic landscapes. They are the largest rodents in North America.

15. Higher Ground (means different plants)

As the ground is higher the soil dries out faster making the ground more suited to white birch trees and serviceberry plants. The cedar and ash trees that grow in the moist ground have been replaced by these species.

Serviceberry also known as Saskatoon berry or June Berry is an important wildlife food for raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks and song birds. It has white flowers in early spring and red to purple berries in fall.